

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Proudly Serving Carney, Kingsville, Loch Raven, Parkville, Perry Hall, and Towson

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: SCHOOL SYSTEM CONSIDERS OPTIONS ON OVERCROWDING

Since my election, I have worked to reduce the school overcrowding that impacts schools from Towson to Perry Hall. Some of the projects we worked on in 2010 and 2011 are now finished. In late September, I joined parents and other community leaders and elected officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the additions at Hampton and Stoneleigh Elementary Schools.



Stoneleigh Elementary School ribbon cutting, September 24, 2013.

In the Towson area, overcrowding is driven by demographic changes as younger families move into neighborhoods like Stoneleigh and Rodgers Forge. Not only is this demographic change occurring in Towson, but it is now underway in Loch Raven. For this reason, School Superintendent S. Dallas Dance has initiated a major review of schools in the central corridor. One proposal under discussion is to add a 300 seat addition at

Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School to guarantee that students in nearby neighborhoods can attend the campus. The school system would convert Halstead Academy into a magnet school—after seeking input from the public regarding the type of magnet program—and reactivate Loch Raven Elementary School as a neighborhood school.

This review is being led by the school system—*not* by the County Executive or the County Council. The County Council's responsibility is to fund whatever is proposed. My personal opinion, however, is that our neighborhood schools should have logical boundaries to the greatest extent possible. I also believe that if there is a change to the magnet program at any school, it should be as least disruptive as possible to students and their families.

In Perry Hall, overcrowding has been driven by demographics *and* development. When I took office, hundreds of new units were already approved for construction, such as the homes now being built at Cross and Chapel Roads. Recognizing that we needed to lighten the impact of future growth on Perry Hall's schools, our office initiated a downzoning of more than 260 acres of undeveloped land, such as the area between Silver Spring Road and Perry Hall High School. The next step will be review of school capacity in the northeast similar to what is occurring in Towson. I will keep the community informed as this unfolds.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Citizens' Police Academy gives community, business and religious leaders the opportunity to learn about the many aspects of police work. The 33rd Annual Academy Program has been scheduled for the spring of 2014. The program consists of 16 sessions which includes 15 consecutive weekly evening classes (6:30- 9:30 p.m.) and one Saturday class (9:00 AM- 3:00PM). The majority of the classroom sessions will be held at the Public Safety Building. Nomination forms will be accepted through February 10, 2014, but class size will be limited to a maximum of 50 attendees. Information and an application can be found through the Baltimore County Government website:

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/police/community/citizensacademy.html.

EDUCATION NEWS

Superintendent to Hold Community Forums

Superintendent Dance will hold a series of community forums this fall. If you want to express your opinion on any topic, you can attend a community forum on Tuesday, October 1 at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (938 North York Road) or on Wednesday, October 16 at Parkville High School (2600 Putty Hill Avenue), both at 6:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Maryland Transit Administration Seeks Input

The Maryland Transit Administration is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the local bus service for the Baltimore region, the Bus Network Improvement Project. The focus will be on service provided in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County and Howard County. Attend a local meeting on Monday, October 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Towson Library (320 York Road).

NEWS IN LOCH RAVEN

Ridgely Manor Park Moves Forward

Plans are moving forward for the first park along the Loch Raven Boulevard corridor in more than four decades. The Ridgely Manor Community Association approved plans for Ridgely Manor Park on Yakona Road. The Hess Corporation has demolished the homes that were purchased as part of a settlement over contamination from a nearby gas station. Following remediation, that area will become a park owned by NeighborSpace of Baltimore County.

NEWS IN PERRY HALL

Perry Hall Park Projects Advance

Over the next 18 months, three new parks will be built in Perry Hall. The first is the Perry Paw Dog Park, which celebrated a groundbreaking on September 17. Councilman Marks created the task force that identified locations for the dog park, and his office assisted with private fundraising. The dog park will be located on the eastern edge of Honeygo Run Regional Park. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PerryPawDogPark>.

Baltimore County will break ground in early October on Gough Park, which will be located east of Honeygo Boulevard and south of Joppa Road. Gough Park will include athletic fields and a walking trail, and construction will likely

take a year. The third park is the area west of Honeygo Boulevard and south of Joppa Road that will include the new Perry Hall Recreation Council center. Construction will likely start in the spring. Councilman Marks thanks the Kamenetz administration and the volunteers and leaders of the Perry Hall and White Marsh Recreation Councils for their support.



Groundbreaking for the Perry Paw Dog Park, September 17, 2013.

Torsch Foundation to Hold Fundraiser

The Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation, which assists with in-patient substance abuse treatment and overdose prevention and awareness, will hold a fundraiser on Friday, October 11 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Avenue). Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased by calling Toni at (443) 554-6150 or Julie at (443) 804-6330. Perry Hall public library will hold its 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 7 starting at 11 a.m. Family events are planned, with remarks from local leaders at 1 p.m.

Fall Events Continue at Chapel Hills Nursery

Fall Festival Days continue at Perry Hall's Chapel Hills Farms and Nursery every Saturday weekend in September and October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit <http://chapelhillsfarmandnursery.com>.

NEWS IN TOWSON

ACTC Seeks Donations

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches has an urgent need for canned goods and other donations. ACTC is located at 120 West Pennsylvania Avenue in Downtown Towson. Please go to the following link for a list of preferred items: <http://www.actconline.info>.